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Joy To The World

Wyatt Sawyer

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HARDING
UNIVERSITY

VISITORS:

DIANE.

JOY TO THE WORLD

(1.)

*Luke 2:1-14. (Softly)

JUST

I. HOW MUCH JOY DID THE WORLD KNOW PRIOR TO THE BIRTH
OF JESUS??? Not much!!! Six reasons:

World.

1. Low state of human morality.

a. ROME: 900,000 men of 1,600,000 pop. slaves!!

b. ATHENS: 3 of 5 men slaves in this capital of
Grecian education and culture. Poor level.c. ** Jews slaves of the Romans - 2nd mile!*
Women owned as furniture or land or cattle.d. Children sold or given away in payment of
debts. Value of human life was very low.2. No Human Brotherhood.Nations, states, tribes, nationalities, villages
even set in opposition to one another.3. No human fellowship in Worship.Jews made individual sacrifices at Temple and
went home.4. No Gospel or good news yet.All was daily dreary drudgery. Plodding along.
Little to look forward to.5. No Sins forgiven, just pressed forward to be
reckoned with again the next year.No real spiritual relief. *Blood of bulls & goats!*6. No clear and happy view of Immortality.

Still asking Job's question: Job 14:14.

Explains: Luke 2:20!

A NEW WORLD! NEW ERA! NEW SYSTEM! BETTER!

God's Gift of Joy!

12-21-75

II. HOW MUCH JOY DO WE HAVE IN AMERICA TODAY???

- Ill.* 1. Lloyd Shearer's col. in PARADE, 12-14-75.

"Leading experts on public opinion insist that there is a corrosion of confidence in our government and economy today." ¶ 2.

Sen. Frank Church (D. Idaho) "a lack of faith, widespread cynicism and profound pessimism are the most central and fundamental problems facing America today." ¶ 5.

"Disgruntlement has spread.....there has been a growing lawlessness at all levels of American society up to, and including the federal government.....the habits of lawlessness have spread from one agency of govt. to another....the existence of a free government is imperiled if it fails to follow the law." ¶ 6.

2. God's Angels have a message for us today:

Luke 2:10-14. *all they got, we have today!*
We have the things that really count!!!!

The Christian's Joy is not in lands, governments, possessions and material things.

The Christian's Joy is in God's Spiritual gifts to us. (Same things that gave the early Christian's their JOY.)

Eph. 1:3. II Pet. 1:3.

Ill. WE CAN REJOICE AND BE JOYOUS TODAY

BECAUSE OF WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE FOR US.

Christians should be smiling! *Ill.* Robt. L. Stevenson:

"When a happy man comes into the room, it is as if another candle has been lighted!"

When the spirit of GLADNESS and THANKFULNESS rules the heart, light SPRINGS up to dispell the darkness and the gloom.!!!! Matt. 5:16 !! *shine!* (Knt. 387)

Didn't say: Economy is good. Crime is low. Etc. Etc.

III. THINGS WE HAVE TO REJOICE ABOUT TODAY.

1. Through Christ we have a HIGH STANDARD of MORALITY. Slavery, servitude abolished!

Matt. 22:37-39. All men exalted to God's high station. Ps. 8:5. Matt. 7:12.

A reason to be JOYOUS!!!! *Have a golden Rule!*

Ill. ~~⊗~~ Newspaper article. Good!

2. Through Christ we have a LOVING, CARING BROTHERHOOD!!! Selfishness abolished.

Acts 2:44-47. *Benevolent Room! \$20,000. God's work!*

Ill. True Christian concern like incident with the great airship, AKRON one time. Three men on one tow-rope. Should have been released, but instead swooped 3 men up into the air as the airship ascended hundreds of feet up. All happened in seconds.

Crowd below petrified-soundless.

Lowest man, weakened & fell to his death!

Crowd shrieked, screamed & many feinted

2nd man lost his grip. Plummited to death

Crowd prayed silently as 3rd man was slowly pulled toward the dirigible to safety. MADE IT! → *SAVED!*

WE: UNRESTRAINED JOY & WEeping. *SICK AT SIN! THRILLED WHEN SAVED!*
Likened unto: Luke 15:10. B-R-C-B

God's KINGDOM: Christians who MOURN, WEEP & PRAY for those dangling between heaven and hell in SIN!!! Concerned!!!

God's KINGDOM: Christians who weep with joy when one SINNER REPENTS and is saved in obedience to the GOSPEL.

3. Through Christ we have RELIEF from the burden of SIN and the JOY of the HOPE of IMMORTALITY of the soul.

INV: This seen in: JOHN 14:1-3.

Joy in the UNTROUBLED HEART!

Joy in a sustaining FAITH. Power, strength

Joy in a PREPARED HOME beyond this world.

Joy in the EXPECTATION of His return!!!